

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-19 (cancelled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): Apparatus to form a hollow protrusion from heated thermoplastic film, wherein said hollow protrusion comprises a tip bounded at least in part by a fault line, the apparatus comprising:

(a) a supply of thermoplastic film, said film as supplied having an uncompressed film thickness T;

(b) means to controllably heat a section of said film;

(c) punch means comprising a fault line forming portion; ~~and~~

(d) a female die having an accurately bored hole in a die-plate located in accurate alignment with said punch means, said female die having a shoulder; and

(e) means for controlling the advancement of the punch means against the shoulder from ~~{wherein the punch means has}~~ a first position in which ~~{it}~~ the punch means is not in contact with the film ~~{and}~~ to a second position in which it is fully advanced against said film ~~{; and wherein in said second position}~~ and in which said fault line forming portion of said punch means is advanced to a distance D from said shoulder of said female die, with said film therebetween, said distance D being less than said

uncompressed film thickness T , such that the fault line forming portion and the shoulder compress the film in that location, thereby forming said fault line.

Claims 21-24 (cancelled)

Claim 25 (unchanged from last amendment): The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the fault line forming portion comprises a tapered surface.

Claim 26 (unchanged from last amendment): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the fault line forming portion comprises a frusto-conical surface.

Claim 27 (unchanged from last amendment): The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the fault line forming portion comprises a rounded surface.

Claim 28 (unchanged from last amendment): The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the fault line forming portion comprises a spherical surface.

Claim 29 (unchanged from last amendment): The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said female die is self-centering and self-aligning with the punch means.

Claim 30 (unchanged from last amendment): The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said female die is spring-loaded.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 20, ~~[further comprising]~~ wherein said means for controlling the advancement of the punch means from a first position to a second position comprises a micrometer punch adjustment mechanism and an anvil adjustable stop mechanism ~~[for controlling the advancement of the punch means against the shoulder]~~.

Claim 32 (currently amended): Apparatus to form a breakaway section from heated thermoplastic film, wherein said breakaway section is bounded at least in part by a fault line, the apparatus comprising:

(a) a supply of thermoplastic film, said film as supplied having an uncompressed film thickness T;

(b) means to controllably heat a section of said film;

(c) a punch comprising a fault line forming portion; ~~[and]~~

(d) a die having a shoulder; and

(e) means for controlling the advancement of the punch means against the shoulder from ~~[wherein the punch has]~~ a first position in which it is not in contact with the film ~~[and]~~ to a second position in which it is advanced against said film ~~;~~ and wherein in said second position and in which said fault line forming portion

of said punch is advanced to a distance D from said shoulder, with said film therebetween, said distance D being less than said uncompressed film thickness T, such that the fault line forming portion and the shoulder compress the film in that location, thereby forming said fault line.

Claim 33 (unchanged from last amendment): The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the fault line forming portion comprises a tapered surface.

Claim 34 (unchanged from last amendment): The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the fault line forming portion comprises a frusto-conical surface.

Claim 35 (unchanged from last amendment): The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the fault line forming portion comprises a rounded surface.

Claim 36 (unchanged from last amendment): The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the fault line forming portion comprises a spherical surface.

Claim 37 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 32, ~~[further comprising]~~ wherein said means for controlling the advancement of the punch means from a first position to a second

position comprises a micrometer punch adjustment mechanism and an anvil adjustable stop mechanism ~~{for controlling the advancement of the punch means against the shoulder}~~.

Claim 38 (currently amended): Apparatus to form a hollow protrusion from heated thermoplastic film, wherein said hollow protrusion comprises a tip bounded at least in part by a fault line, the apparatus comprising:

(a) a supply of thermoplastic film, said film as supplied having an uncompressed film thickness T;

(b) means to controllably heat a section of said film;

(c) a first punch member having a substantially flat end surface and a second punch member having a fault line forming portion; ~~{and}~~

(d) a female die having an accurately bored hole in a die-plate located in accurate alignment with said first punch member and said second punch member, said female die having an anvil with a substantially flat end surface and a shoulder; and

(e) means for controlling the advancement of the second punch member against the shoulder from ~~{wherein the first punch member and second punch member have}~~ a first position in which ~~{they are}~~ the second punch member is not in contact with the film ~~{and}~~ to a second position in which ~~{they are both}~~ it is fully advanced against said film ~~{and wherein in said second position}~~ and in which said fault line forming portion of said second punch member is advanced to a distance D from said shoulder of said female die,

with said film therebetween, said distance D being less than said uncompressed film thickness T, such that the fault line forming portion and the shoulder compress the film in that location, thereby forming said fault line.

Claim 39 (unchanged from last amendment): The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the fault line forming portion comprises a tapered surface.

Claim 40 (unchanged from last amendment): The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the fault line forming portion comprises a frusto-conical surface.

Claim 41 (unchanged from last amendment): The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the fault line forming portion comprises a rounded surface.

Claim 42 (unchanged from last amendment): The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the fault line forming portion comprises a spherical surface.

Claim 43 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 38, ~~[further comprising]~~ wherein said means for controlling the advancement of the second punch member from a first position to a second position comprises a micrometer punch adjustment mechanism and an anvil adjustable stop mechanism ~~[for controlling the advancement of the punch against the shoulder]~~.